

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10858 01 OF 02 171105Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 BIB-01 /056 W
-----127559 171116Z /13

O 171058Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1767
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 10858

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CSCE, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: ORLOV TRIAL, THE SECOND DAY

REF: MOSCOW 10751

SUMMARY: THE SECOND DAY OF THE ORLOV TRIAL, MAY 16, SAW
THE TESTIMONY AND QUESTIONING OF ALL 15 PROSECUTION WITNESSES.
ACCORDING TO MRS. ORLOV, THE ATMOSPHERE INSIDE THE COURT-
ROOM WORSENERED DURING THE SECOND DAY. MILITIA/KGB CONTROL
OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM TIGHTENED, RESULTING IN AN UGLY BUT
ESSENTIALLY NON-VIOLENT SCENE AT THE END OF THE DAY. MRS.
ORLOV FEELS THE TRIAL MAY END LATE MAY 17 OR PERHAPS
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 10858 01 OF 02 171105Z

EARLY MAY 18. END SUMMARY.

1. MRS. ORLOV WAS NOT ALLOWED OUTSIDE OF THE COURTHOUSE
UNTIL THE END OF THE DAY'S PROCEEDINGS, SHORTLY AFTER
FOUR P.M. SHE THEN EXPLAINED THAT THE ENTIRE DAY WAS
GIVEN OVER TO TESTIMONY AND QUESTIONING OF THE 15
PROSECUTION WITNESSES, WHOSE APPOINTED TASK IT

WAS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT VARIOUS DOCUMENTS WRITTEN BY ORLOV WERE "ANTI-SOVIET SLANDER". AMONG THE WITNESSES: TWO SOVIET PSYCHIATRISTS, WHO TESTIFIED THAT SOVIET PSYCHIATRY WAS NEVER USED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES; A DOCTOR FROM THE MORDOVIAN LABOR CAMP COMPLEX, WHO DESCRIBED THE "MARVELOUS" HEALTH CARE PROGRAM THERE; TWO PRISONERS FROM THE PRISON IN WHICH ORLOV HAS BEEN HELD SINCE HIS ARREST, WHO DESCRIBED THE "FINE" CONDITIONS IN THE PLACE; THREE DOCTORS FROM VLADIMIR PRISON, WHO GAVE SIMILAR TESTIMONY.

2. ORLOV WAS ALLOWED TO ASK QUESTIONS, BUT, AS DURING THE FIRST DAY, FREQUENTLY WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE CHIEF JUDGE.

3. ACCORDING TO MRS. ORLOV, THE PROSECUTOR CONTINUED STUDIOUSLY TO AVOID MENTIONING THE PHRASE "HELSINKI MONITORING GROUP", AND SPOKE ONLY OF SPECIFIC "SLANDEROUS ANTI-SOVIET" DOCUMENTS WRITTEN BY ORLOV AND OTHERS. DESPITE ORLOV'S REPEATED REQUESTS, THE JUDGE REFUSED TO ALLOW THE READING OF THE FULL TEXT OF ANY DOCUMENT. ONLY THOSE PORTIONS SELECTED BY THE PROSECUTION WERE READ.

4. MRS. ORLOV REPORTED THAT THE SPECTATORS WERE CONSIDERABLY MORE DISCOURTEOUS TOWARD HER HUSBAND DURING THE SECOND DAY, AND FREQUENTLY LAUGHED AT HIS QUESTIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 10858 01 OF 02 171105Z

AND ASSERTIONS. SHE AND HER TWO STEP-SONS WERE FRISKED BEFORE THEY WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BUILDING AT THE END OF THE DAY, AND NONE OF THE THREE WAS PERMITTED TO TAKE NOTES.

5. MILITIA/KGB CONTROLS OUTSIDE OF THE COURTHOUSE WERE STRICTER THAN ON THE FIRST DAY. THE COURTHOUSE GROUNDS WERE COMPLETELY CLOSED, WITH ALL NEWSMEN, AND OTHER NON-OFFICIAL SPECTATORS FORCED TO STAY ON THE SIDEWALK AND STREET IN FRONT OF THE GROUNDS. THE CROWD VARIED IN SIZE THROUGHOUT THE DAY, BUT WAS CONSIDERABLY SMALLER THAN ON MAY 15.

6. THE U.S. EMBASSY OFFICER PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE DAY WAS THE ONLY DIPLOMAT ON THE SCENE. EMBOFF ATTEMPTED POLITELY TO GAIN ENTRANCE TO THE COURTROOM AT 0930 A.M. AND WAS TOLD THAT THE ROOM WAS ALREADY FULL. EMBOFF THEN ASKED TO BE ADMITTED TO THE COURTHOUSE GROUNDS, BUT WAS DENIED ENTRANCE BECAUSE OUTSIDE SPECTATORS HAD TAPE RECORDERS AND OTHERWISE MISBEHAVED WHEN ALLOWED ON THE GROUNDS MAY 15. (COMMENT: EMBOFF HAD NO TAPE RECORDER AND SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED ANY ACTION WHICH

COULD BE CONSTRUED AS MISBEHAVIOR.) WESTERN JOURNALISTS
AND SOVIET FRIENDS OF ORLOV, INCLUDING SAKHAROV, GOT
THE SAME RESPONSE. NONE WAS ALLOWED BEYOND THE SIDEWALK.

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10858 02 OF 02 171110Z
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-----127657 171116Z /13

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 10858

7. THOSE STANDING VIGIL CAUGHT A BRIEF GLIMPSE OF YURIY
ORLOV AS HE WAS ESCORTED INTO A MILITIA VAN AT THE SIDE
OF THE COURTHOUSE AT ABOUT FOUR P.M. MUCH TO THE
DISGUST OF THE MILITIA/KGB FORCE IN THE AREA, ORLOV'S
FRIENDS ENTHUSIASTICALLY YELLED "YURIY, YURIY*" AS THE
VAN WAS DRIVEN OUT OF THE GROUNDS AND DOWN THE STREET
IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING.

8. THE SITUATION BEGAN TO WORSEN WHEN MRS. ORLOV AND
HER TWO STEP-SONS EMERGED FROM THE BUILDING AT ABOUT
4:15 P.M. THE MILITIA/KGB FORCE APPARENTLY HAD ORDERS
TO PREVENT MRS. ORLOV FROM BRIEFING NEWSMEN AND FRIENDS:
THE GROUP AROUND HER, NUMBERING SOME 40-50 PEOPLE, WAS
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 10858 02 OF 02 171110Z

STEADILY NUDGED AND PRODED TOWARD THE MAIN ROAD, ABOUT A QUARTER MILE FROM THE COURTHOUSE. THE GROUP FINALLY REACHED THE PARKING LOT OF A LARGE DEPARTMENT STORE. BY THAT TIME, MOST OF THE PLAINCLOTHESMEN HAD DROPPED OFF. BUT SEVERAL MILITIA OFFICERS INSISTED THAT NO INTERVIEW TAKE PLACE, AND ONE OFFICER ATTEMPTED TO REMOVE THE TAPE CASSETTE FROM A U.S. NEWSMAN'S RECORDER (BUT GAVE UP WHEN HE COULD NOT FIGURE OUT HOW TO EXTRACT THE CASSETTE FROM THE MACHINE). TEMPER FLARED, AND MINOR BUT VIGOROUS SCUFFLES BROKE OUT. ONE SOVIET FRIEND OF MRS. ORLOV WAS TAKEN AWAY IN A MILITIA SEDAN. NO BLOWS WERE STRUCK, NO ONE FELL DOWN: MILITIA BEHAVIOR WAS UNPLEASANT BUT WAS NOT, BY SOVIET STANDARDS, UNDULY CRUDE. SEVERAL OF THE WESTERN JOURNALISTS PRESENT SNAPPED PHOTOS OF THIS HAPPENING.

9. MRS. ORLOV EXPECTS THE TRIAL TO END LATE IN THE DAY MAY 17, OR PERHAPS EARLY MAY 18, AFTER CONCLUDING STATEMENTS ARE MADE BY THE DEFENSE AND PROSECUTION.

10. BRITISH HEAD OF CHANCERY CALLED US NOON MAY 16 TO REPORT THAT DAILY TELEGRAPH HAD FRONTPAGED STORY CLAIMING INTER ALIA THAT AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS BITTERLY DISAPPOINTE OVER ABSENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES. POL COUNSELOR SAID NO MEMBER OF THIS EMBASSY HAD MADE SUCH A STATEMENT. INDICATING HIS EMBASSY WAS UNDER HEAT FROM LONDON ON THIS MATTER, SOURCE CALLED LATER TO REPORT THAT HE WAS CONSIDERING SENDING BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER TO JOIN OURS OUTSIDE COURTHOUSE ON MAY 17. TOON

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Message Attributes

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